

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) 25X1 REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 6 to 27 June 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 1 August 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Source observed Cottbus airfield between 6 and 10:20 a.m. on 6 June 1952. A Li-2 type plane took off from the field at 8:56 a.m., crossed the field at 9:05 a.m. at an altitude of about 2,000 meters and at 9:12 a.m. at an altitude of 3,000 meters. No more air activity was observed. Nineteen dark twin-engine planes were counted at the field. Other aircraft observed at the field included 2 jet bombers, the above mentioned Li-2 and 1 twin-engine plane with double rudder assembly. The latter plane was larger than the other twin-engine planes. There was no flying at the field on 16 June between 4 and 7 p.m. Twenty-three planes, including 3 type-27 or type-30 planes, were counted at the field. Between 6:10 and 10 a.m. on 17 June, only one U-2 was observed flying at the field. The plane landed next to the runway. Its crew was repeatedly changed. Flying still continued at 10 a.m. There was the same number of aircraft parked at the field as on 16 June. *
2. A large emplacement for AA guns which extended about 150 meters from east to west and about 75 meters from north to south was observed in the southern section of the field, about 150 meters east of the athletic grounds. Ten gun positions were counted there. Four of them were occupied by guns, which were covered with tarpaulins. A large box-like device covered with tarpaulins was in the middle of the emplacement. On the east edge of the emplacement there was a bunker in the vicinity of which about 30 Russians were observed. On 17 June, four vertical gun barrels were observed in the emplacement. The guns were covered with tarpaulins. A soldier continuously searched the sky through field glasses. **
3. Two warning signboards were south of the approach road to the field, east of the railroad line at the west exit of the settlement. A third warning sign was behind the railroad line. Fences which were erected along the approach road on both sides of the railroad line for a length of about 100 meters, blocked the area to the south. North of the railroad line, there was a transformer station and a long brick building with a flat roof, in which about 20 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue and red-bordered black epaulets were observed. This building was referred to as a locksmith shop. A few meters northwest of it there was a new building, a shed-like structure which was about 25 meters long, 6 meters wide and 8 meters high. It had 8 small barred windows on one side and 3 large and 2 small wooden doors on the other side. Two other sheds were under construction south of the barracks installations, which were in line with the build-

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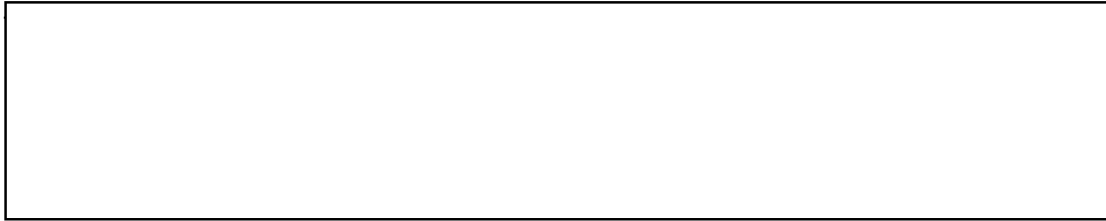
SECRET, [REDACTED]

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ings at the field, east of the road to Burg. ***

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5. At 5:30 p.m. on 12 June, 4 jet bombers, 1 Li-2, 2 B-25s and 20 to 25 Pe-2s were counted at the field. Between 12 and 14 June, one Li-2 was repeatedly observed flying. (1)
6. Three definitely observed AA guns and some empty positions were in the AA gun emplacement on the southern edge of the field. A four-cornered device, probably a truck trailer, was also observed in the emplacement. (2)

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8. In June, source observed that an AA gun emplacement with about 12 AA guns was at the west exit of the field. Another AA gun emplacement in which 4 guns were definitely observed was south of the landing field.
9. On 27 June, an AA gun emplacement with several emplaced guns was observed south of the field. Next to the gun emplacement there was a splinterproof command post the roof of which was camouflaged and covered with a layer of sand.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms that Cottbus airfield is still occupied by a bomber regiment equipped with Pe-2s the pilots of which are being retrained on jet bombers. The plane with a double rudder assembly which is larger than the other planes probably is a B-25 which is used for transition training on jet aircraft.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. No final conclusions can be drawn as to the actual location of the AA gun emplacement or the caliber of the guns. It is believed that the emplacement on the southern edge of the field, east of the athletic field is a heavy AA battery of four guns, while two batteries with 12 x 37-mm guns are located on the west edge of the field.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. According to a rough sketch which is not forwarded, the gas buildings are identical with those previously reported. [REDACTED]. The description indicates that the buildings under construction are garages and workshops which are required for the AAA units now stationed at the field.

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